American Volunteer.

"OUR COUNTRY—MAY IT ALWAYS BE RIGHT—BUT, RIGHT OR WRONG, OUR COUNTRY."

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AMERICAN VOLUNTEER.

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TERMS.

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Poetical.

THE AMERICAN FLAG.

At this time, when probably a thousand flags, large and small, are flung to the breeze in every town, and so much homage is paid to the glorious Stars and Stripes, we deem it a fitting occasion to publish J. RODMAN DRAKE'S Ode, as revised and improved by FITZ GREENE HALLECK. It is unquestionably one of the finest pieces of American poetry ever written, and at this particular juncture is calculated to make the patriotic chills run through the blood of every lover of the Union:

When Freedom from her mountain height
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there.
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldrick of the skies,
And striped its pure celestial white
With streakings of the morning light;
Then from his mansion in the sun
She called her eagle-bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land.

Majestic monarch of the cloud,
Who rearest aloft thy regal form
To hear the tempest-trumpings loud,
And see the lightning-lances driven;
When stride the warriors of the storm,
And rolls the thunder-drum of heaven!
Child of the sun! to thee 'tis given
To guard the banner of the free!
To hover in the sulphur smoke,
To ward away the battle stroke,
And bid its blendings shine afar,
Like rainbows in the cloud of war—
The harbingers of victory!

Flag of the brave! thy folds shall fly,
The sign of hope and triumph high;
When speaks the trumpet's signal tone,
And the long line comes gleaming on,
Ere yet the life-blood, warm and wet,
Has dimm'd the glistening bayonet.
Each soldier's eye shall brightly turn
To where thy sky-born glories burn;
And as his springing steps advance
Catch war and vengeance from the glance;
And when the cannon-mouthings loud
Heave in wild wreaths the battle shroud,
And gory sabres rise and fall
Like shoots of flame on midnight's hall—
Then shall thy meteor-glances glow,
And cowering foes shall sink beneath
Each gallant arm that strikes below
That lovely messenger of death!

Flag of the seas! on ocean's wave
Thy stars shall glitter o'er the brave;
When death, careering on the gale,
Sweeps darkly round the bellied sail,
And frighted waves rush wildly back
Before the broadside's reeling rack,
Each dying wanderer of the sea
Shall look at once to Heaven and thee,
And smile to see thy splendors fly
In triumph o'er his closing eye!

Flag of the free hearts hope and home,
By angel-hands to valor given,
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in heaven!
Forever float that standard sheet
Where breathes the foe that falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!

"ROCK ME TO SLEEP."

[From the Knickerbocker for May.]

"We remember reading, some few months ago in one of our New Hampshire exchange papers, an account of the death of a citizen patriot, eighty-five years of age. The last words of the old veteran were, 'I want to see mother!' She had been dead more than forty years! This incident has just been called to mind by the touching lines, 'Rock me to sleep,' sent us by an old friend and correspondent, now exiled from his early home and friends in far-off California:

"Backward, turn backward, O Time! in your flight,
Make me a child again—just for to-night!
Mother, come back from the echoless shore,
Take me again to your heart as of yore:
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair;
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep—
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

"Backward, flow backward, O, swift tide of years!
I am weary of toil, I am weary of tears:
Toil without recompense, tears all in vain,
Take them, and give me my childhood again!
I have grown weary of dust and decay,
Weary of flinging my soul wealth away,
Weary of sowing for others to reap;
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

"Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue:
Mother, O Mother! my heart calls for you!
Many a summer the grass has grown green,
Blossomed and faded, our faces between:
Yet with strong yearning and passionate pain,
Long I to-night for your presence again;
Come from the silence so long and so deep—
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

"Over my heart in the days that are flown,
No love like mother-love ever has shown:
No other worship abides and endures,
Faithful, unselfish, and patient, like yours:
None like a mother can charm away pain
From the sorrowing soul and the world-weary brain;
Slumber's soft calm o'er my heavy lids creep;
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

"Come, let your brown hair, just lighted with gold,
Fall on your shoulders again as of old;
Let it fall over my forehead to-night,
Shielding my eyes from the flickering light,
For oh! with its sunny-edged shadows once more,
Haply will throng the sweet vision of yore;
Lovingly, softly its bright billows sweep—
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!

"Mother, dear Mother! the years have been long
Since last I was hushed by your lullaby song:
Sing, then again!—to my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream;
Clasp to your arms in a loving embrace,
With your soft, light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep;
Rock me to sleep, Mother—rock me to sleep!"

Who wrote these lines? They are brim-full of tears; and we envy not the man who can read them without emotion.

☞ 'Can you tell me, Jim where they get so much corn from to manufacture into whiskey?' 'Why, no,' says Jim; 'but I can tell very well where the *corn* comes from after the whiskey is made.'

☞ My five-years old boy sometimes says queer things. One day he said to his little sister, 'When I get wings, I'll take you up where God is, 'cause your too little to go alone—and then, will you be afraid to stay with the angels while I go back and get mamma?'

Miscellaneous.

PEKIN AND ITS PLUNDER.

Pekin is, without any exception, the most contemptible city to a stranger I ever saw; it is built upon a perfectly level plain of mud, so that there is no drainage, the Peiho, into which it might be turned, being fourteen miles distant, and so sluggish in its current it would not carry what was thrown into it away. There are no latrines or any receptacles for filth, the public and crowded streets supplying all demands without regard to decency. Two or three of these are as broad as Regent or Oxford street, but the majority of them are very narrow. In the broad ones a mud cartway runs up the centre with a ditch of stagnant stinking water on either side, then comes a deep pathway, on which itinerant venders of everything, more particularly of old clothes, mended shoes, traveling "old curiosity shops," and the man who has "killed his pig," brings it to market, erect their stalls, or spread their wares on the ground. Here you may have your dinner from a portable cooking shop, selecting your luxuries from puppy dogs, cats, or other suspicious-looking things which no one but a Chinaman has any name for in the larder vocabulary.

Here the barbar, with his shop on his shoulder, stops, makes room for himself, tinkles a little bell, and as soon has seven heads to shave and tails to replait. Here is a blind fellow, playing a full band of instruments, consisting of cymbals, flutes, fiddles, bells and drums, altogether with his arms and legs; a little further on you come on two or three boys yelling forth Chinese songs, like our own folks at home, and selling little books to them, no doubt at "three yards a penny;" we stopped to see him, his invitation to do so was so polite; we next came upon a juggler, a man whom had Barnum once seen he would have been bought up on the spot, and carried to England or America, to astonish you at home, as he certainly did us.

The shops on either side of the street are only one story high, and, amid all the mud and filth, are made as gaudy as guilt and the primitive colors can make them. They have no windows, the only light being given by the door, which in windy weather is closed by a curtain of matting to keep out the dust, which, by the way, is very peculiar. Outside the city it is common brown mud, but inside the walls the ground is black, and on hot, windy days, blown about in clouds. The day the treaty was signed, the whole of the embassy, and those who accompanied Lord Elgin to see the ceremony, were like so many sweeps.

Pekin is not nearly so large or so densely populated as we have always been led to believe. It has little or no suburbs, and, judging from a ride through both Tartar and Chinese portions, I should say it was not much larger than Manchester or Glasgow. The inhabitants certainly pack very closely, but then the houses are only one story, and every one has some pretentions to a garden behind it. The grounds of the Winter Palace, and the beautiful park around the temple of Heaven, are each several square miles in extent, while the different yamuns, or houses of the numerous nobles and mandarins, take up acres upon acres each, so that the ground occupied by the general population is comparatively small, and I should estimate the latter as a little more, perhaps, than that of Glasgow. The Winter Palace no one has been allowed to see, and the only two other redeeming points about Pekin, which save it from being contemptible to a stranger, are its walls and the Temple of Heaven.

As you approach the city the walls have a very imposing and grand effect. They are built of gray-looking brick, and rise sixty-two feet high; large square bastions stand out about every quarter of a mile at the top; the walls are seventeen paces thick, with a parapet pierced with loopholes for gingals, but not for guns. Over each gateway there rises a massive structure, with four tiers of loop-holes, like a man of-war, forty eight in front and sixteen on each gable. At the four corners of the walls these towers have only two faces, with sixty-four port holes in each. There are no guns in them, however, the holes being filled up with a shutter, on which the muzzle of a gun is painted. Indeed, there are only three or four on the walls altogether. The view from the top over the city is very striking. Owing to your elevated position, you see little more than a forest of trees, a few straight lines of streets, the tops of joss houses, the pagoda of the Temple of Heaven, and the Winter Palace, built upon a high artificial mound, with the walls running all round. When once a palace is built in China, it seems as if it was supposed to take care of itself forever afterwards, no attempt being made to repair the ravages of time or use, and the consequence is that these fine walls are fast falling into ruin.

The Temple of Heaven is a magnificent structure, situated in the centre of the Chinese city, and sourrounded by a walled park as large as Hampton Court and Bushy Parks together, and very like them, too, with its avenues of old trees crossing in all directions; one leads directly from the entrance gate for about a mile to the foot of an inclined plane, which takes you to a terrace hidden by the trees until you are upon it. It is about half a mile in length, 17 paces wide, and 20 feet high, and paved with slabs of white marble. On reaching the top, on your right stands the Temple of the Earth, a beautiful building in itself, but completely eclipsed by that of Heaven on the left. For some reason or other the doors were closed, and when we were obliged to content ourselves with only walking round the earthly building, but a good natured priest opened the gateway of that of Heaven for us. You enter its portals of beautifully-sculptured marble, and come into a large enclosure, in the middle of which is a raised platform, approached all round by steps.

From this the temple, or pagoda, rises in all its beauty. It is about 150 feet high, and has three steps of roofs, exquisitely proportioned to its size. Inside it forms one octagonal room about 60 feet in diameter, containing the altar and chairs of state for the Emperor and his family, no one else being supposed to worship here. The walls inside are composed of brilliant blue and green enamel and gold; eight very graceful pillars, carved in bas relief, support the first roof, and the whole is lighted, by windows, which are scarcely seen from the floor. The outside is encased in blue and green enamel titles, and is a perfect picture of quiet and repose. There is no joss or figure inside the temple, but in some houses round its enclosures there are a great many. The Emperor visits this temple once a year, especially to plough and sow grain, to show he still retains the simplicity of life of his ancestors. He is very lame, having lost the use of both legs; in all his apartments at the Summer Palace, pairs of crutches were found.

The Summer Palace is about seven miles north of Pekin, situated in grounds many miles in extent, laid out with artificial lakes and canals, crossed by fantastic bridges of the old willow pattern, mounds on which pagodas and Lama temples are built, and the whole beautifully wooded. It must, indeed, have been a lovely place in its pride; but now nothing remains but the bare walls and blackened timbers of forty-two palaces that were burnt. It has been estimated that the amount of property pillaged and destroyed exceeds $30,000,000. Every soldier who was present is replete with loot. On entering the emperor's particular residence no one knew what to take; silver was thrown away to take up gold and gold to take up jewelled watches and gems; china and enamelled vases (the manufacture of which is lost) of priceless value, were broken because too bulky to carry away. Rooms full of costly silks, bronzes, jade stone ornaments, and the presents received by the emperors, every article being labelled with the name of the donor, were ruthlessly looted and destroyed. Much more has been buried beneath the ruins, however, than was carried away. The emperor's washstand, basin, and ewer of gold studded with stones, were sold for ten thousand dollars by the captor. Lord Amherst's watch was sold by a French soldier for twenty dollars; it was worth two hundred pounds.

Many men have 30 pounds or 40 pounds of pure gold in their possession, and others have pearls and precious stones of unknown value. Four hundred eunuchs were found in the palace, and it is worth noticing that all the ladies of the court must have had natural sized feet, all the slippers found in their rooms being large—not a single cramped-footed shoe was seen. The winter has regularly set in, the thermometer sinking to 22 deg. at night. We have been particularly fortunate in the weather during the whole of the campaign. If it had been a wet season it would have been next to an impossibility for the army to reach Pekin, the roads throughout the country being nothing but cart tracks through the fields, and after a few hours rain, becoming a foot or eighteen inches deep in soft mud. There is no drainage, the water being purposely kept on the land for agricultural uses.

What Crop Shall We Manure.

Discussing the time when manure should be applied, the Genessee Farmer, touching on the above query, reasons in substance as follows:—"English farmers, as a general rule apply the bulk of their manure to the turnip crop. Our cold winters and hot summers are against its extensive cultivation as a renovating crop," and we have no 'fallow crop' taking its place—"serving at once to clean and enrich the soil." Beans come nearest to it in character and culture. * * * "Our principal renovating plant is *red clover*.—'Manure your green crops,' is the English rule. "Insure me a crop of turnips," says the British farmer, 'and I will insure you every other crop in the rotation.' Acting on this principle, it follows, from the preceding considerations, *that we should apply our manure to clover*. This is contrary to the general opinion, and we state it hesitatingly. Such a method of manuring may not produce the most *immediate* benefit, but where farmers keep plenty of stock, when clover hay for winter feeding is properly appreciated, and where one of the chief objects is to make manure and keep up the fertility of the farm, we think it will be found in the end better than to apply the manure directly to grain crops."

As to the time and state when applied, the farmer says it should be composted during the summer, reducing it in bulk and weight, with but little loss of value, and applied to the young clover early in the fall, when it will produce an increased growth astonishing those who have never before witnessed its effects.

We have applied composted manure in the spring on rather poor land which we wished to seed to clover with oats, and the effect was very gratifying; and we would commend the practice in like cases to those who wish to get a good catch of clover on poor soils. Plaster was used also, after the clover came up; the manure was harrowed in with the seed.

THE MINNIE RIFLE.—The first rifle in vogue in France was the so-called pillar rifle of Thouvenin, but the invention of M. Minnie, is the one which has practically revolutionized the firearms of the present day. The improvements made by M. Minnie are confined almost wholly to the form of the projectile, and have very little reference to that of the gun out of which it is fired. The ball is of an oblong conical form, something like an acorn without its cup; but instead of being solid, this cone is hollowed out at the base into a cup-like form. The advantages of this form of projectile are that it offers less resistance to the air than a round ball would, and that having its centre of gravity in its foremost part, it has no tendency to turn over in its flight; but its chief merit in a military point of view, is that with it the rifle can be loaded as easily as the ordinary smoothbored gun, the forcing of the ball into the grooves of the barrel being effected by the explosion of the gunpowder, and not by the ramrod.—The form of the rifle proper to these conical missiles differs very little from those used with the old spherical bullet, except that a three grooved rifle has superceded the old two grooved gun, and it is still an unsettled question whether four grooves would not be better than three. With this weapon the soldier can make far better practice at five hundred, or even one thousand yards, than he could with the old musket at one hundred or two hundred yards.

POWDER MILLS.—Great fears are expressed for the safety of Dupont's powder mills, in Delaware. We learn from a well-informed source that they have not yet been in danger, but it is quite evident that nothing ought now be trusted to chances. It is, therefore, worthy of consideration whether a military guard should not be promptly placed about them.—There is but one powder mill in Virginia and eight in Maryland, and none in the rest of the South, while Delaware has nine and Pennsylvania sixty-seven. From these figures it will be seen that if we could keep possession of Maryland and Delaware with their powder mills, the solitary powder mill in Virginia, would be the only one to supply the South.—In Pennsylvania the vast extent of the mining interests necessitates the large number of powder mills, and those in Maryland are doubtless owing to the same sort of interest in the Cumberland coal region, which is still true to the Union. Such things are of high importance now, when we must contemplate the necessities of war in every point of view. The war will give an immense impetus to the manufacture of powder, and indeed of all the munitions of war. But the powder mills should be especially looked to, as in time of a great war the cost of powder rises rapidly in consequence of its scarcity. Applications by the conspirators have been made to Dupont's powder mills for a large quantity of powder, and when it was refused, a threat was made to take it by force. But the place is well guarded.—*N. American.*

Crinoline and Pistols.

Some two months ago, two fashionable young men, moving in the first circles of Berlin, Prussia, became involved in a political debate at the *table d' hote* of one of the leading hotels of that city, and, being somewhat like "our Southern brethren" in their propensity to confound a gentlemanly discussion with a rowdyish brawl, soon commenced to exchange epithets not agreeable to ears polite. Seeing that a serious quarrel was likely to ensue, other parties at the table attempted to turn the matter into a joke. This, however, only caused one of the disputants to say something particularly insulting, to which the other responded by dashing a goblet of wine into his face. This, of course, "brought things to a focus," and put all thoughts of conciliation out of the question. It required the efforts of all present to prevent an immediate collision, and it was some time before the heated youths, could be prevailed upon to retire by different doors. On the following evening, the one who had been baptised with the wine sent a challenge to his adversary, carelessly entrusting it to the post. The cartel did not reach the party for whom it was intended, but fell into the hands of his only sister, who took good care that he should know nothing about it. The young lady is devoted to her brother, but she knew that his "honor" would suffer a fatal stain if some reply was not made to the challenge, and, with a devotion worthy of a better cause, she determined to don a suit of his clothes and fight the challenger herself—trusting that her striking resemblance to her brother would enable her to carry out the deception. Accordingly the adversary was promptly favored with a note accepting the gage of battle, naming pistols as the weapons to be used, and designating a noted dueling field just out of the city, as the place of meeting.

The appointed hour found her in the field, very pale, but firm as a rock and determined as a Frenchman. Despite her close diguise, however, the young man, her opponent, detected the whole imposture at a glance, and all his anger gave place to an emotion of mingled amazement and admiration. For the sake of having a little spot with his fair enemy, he determined to humor the deception and try her nerves. Obtaining the right to the fire, he deliberately took his position, leveled his pistol at the disguised lady, and appeared to take particular aim at the region of her heart, expecting to see her either scream or faint. But she did neither, and he was at last compelled to fire in the air.

The lady, however, had no idea of coming out for nothing; and, now that it was her turn, she took good care to hit something. Raising her pistol to a level with the young gentleman's shoulder, she drew the trigger and lodged a bullet in the right "wing" of her antagonist. On receiving her fire the young man advanced slowly toward her, with a ghastly smile, placed his left hand upon his wounded shoulder, bowed, and fell senseless at her feet.

No sooner was the deed done that the Woman triumphed over the Amazon; and, with loud shrieks for help, the lady knelt besides the wounded man, and endeavored to staunch the wound with her handkerchief. In this position they were found by the police—who got wind of the transaction when too late to prevent it—and were carried to the city together. The Prussian authorities are very strict in matters of this kind, and our heroine might have been sent to prison for attempted murder; but as the wound of the young man was not very serious, and he ardently exonerated her from all blame, the magistrate before whom they were arraigned concluded to overlook the offence.

The brother of the courageous lady hastened to appolizze for his offence as soon as he heard of his adversary's condition, and the young lady herself was so truly penitent for what she had done that she volunteered to nurse her late antagonist back to health.

Our readers may imagine the sequel. The invalid grew so fond of his nurse that he would not consent to give her up at all; and as soon as he could leave his bed, they were married.

The whole story was told recently in one of the German *zeitungs*.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—A horrible calamity occurred at the oil well of Little & Myrick, on the Buchanan Flats, near Franklin, on Wednesday. A vein of oil was tapped, and a spout thrown up two hundred feet in height. A crowd collected to see it, when the oil took fire, and an explosion took place, killing four persons instantly, whose bodies were consumed in the flames. Mr. Rowser, of the firm of Rowser, Mitchell & Brown, was burnt so that he died at 3 A. M., on Thursday. Thirteen were dead at 4 o'clock, P. M., on same day, and ten were not expected to live twenty-four hours. Thirty-four persons in all are known to have been burnt, and as there were many strangers present, it was supposed many more have perished. A son of H. Gardner, of Michigan, was burnt to death, and a portion of his body was recovered. The legs and arms, and a portion of the head, were all consumed. His remains were brought down on the Le Clare, in charge of Mr. M. H. Kelsey, who is conveying them to the lad's parents in Michigan. Mr. Rowser, immediately after the calamity occurred, despatched a man for an officer and made his will, in which it is stipulated that $50,000 be given to the poor of his country, $200 to each of the two men who rescued him from the fire, &c.—those and other features in the will showing him a man of benevolence. There were four wells consumed in the vicinity, and also a barn belonging to Mr. Buchanan. Gable & Gardener lost seventy-five barrels of oil. The owners of the oil at this well lost two hundred and fifty barrels. Buchanan's loss was one hundred and six barrels. The Rice well lost one hundred and twenty-five barrels. The Wadsworth well lost two hundred barrels.

For the above details we are indebted to Mr. Williams, Smithfield street. He was on the ground when the affair occurred, and gave us a graphic account of the whole transaction.—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

INVALUABLE RIGHTS.—A wag has made the following summary of what he calls the "Inalienable Rights of Americans," which are not enumerated in the Declaration of Independence:

To know any trade or business without apprenticeship or experience.

To marry without regard to fortune, state of health, position, or opinion of parents or friends.

To have a wife and children dependent on contingencies of business, and in case of sudden death, to leave them wholly unprovided for.

To teach your children no good trade, hoping they will have, when grown up, wit enough to live on the industry of other people.

To enjoy general sympathy when made bankrupt by reckless speculation.

To cheat the Government, if you possibly can.

To hold office without being competent to discharge its duties.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Agreeably to the proclamation of the Governor, the Legislature of Pennsylvania convened in extra session, on the 30th ultimo.—After the two Houses had been called to order, and addresses delivered by their respective Speakers, the Secretary of the Commonwealth presented the following

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, April 30, 1861.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen:—The present unparalleled exigency in the affairs of our country, has induced me to call you together at this time.—With an actual and armed rebellion in some of the States of the Union, momentous questions have been thrust upon us which call for your deliberation, and that you should devise means by legislation for the maintenance of the authority of the General Government, the honor and dignity of our State, the protection of our citizens, and the early establishment of peace and order throughout the land.

On the day of my induction into the Executive office, I took occasion to utter the following sentiments:

"No one who knows the history of Pennsylvania, and understands the opinions and feelings of her people, can justly charge us with hostility to our brethren of other States. We regard them as friends and fellow-countrymen, in whose welfare we feel a kindred interest; and we recognize, in their broadest extent, all our constitutional obligations to them. These we are ready and willing to observe generously and fraternally in their letter and spirit, with unswerving fidelity.

"Ours is a National Government. It has within the sphere of its action all the attributes of sovereignty, and among these are the right and duty of self-preservation. It is based upon a compact to which all the people of the United States are parties. It is the result of mutual concessions, which were made for the purpose of securing reciprocal benefits. It acts directly on the people, and they owe it a personal allegiance. No part of the people, no State nor combination of States, can voluntarily secede from the Union, nor absolve themselves from their obligations to it. To permit a State to withdraw at pleasure from the Union, without the consent of the rest, is to confess that our Government is a failure. Pennsylvania can never acquiesce in such a conspiracy, nor assent to a doctrine which involves the destruction of the Government. If the Government is to exist, all the requirements of the Constitution must be obeyed; and it must have power adequate to the enforcement of the supreme law of the land in every State. It is the first duty of the national authorities to stay the progress of anarchy and enforce the laws, and Pennsylvania, with a united people, will give them an honest, faithful and active support. The people mean to preserve the integrity of the national Union at every hazard."

It could scarcely have been anticipated at that time, that we should so soon be called upon for the practical application of these truths in connection with their support and defence by the strong arm of military power.

The unexampled promptness and enthusiasm with which Pennsylvania and the other loyal States have responded to the call of the President, and the entire unanimity with which our people demand that the integrity of the Government shall be preserved, illustrate the duty of the several States and National Governments with a distinctness that cannot be disregarded. The slaughter of Northern troops in the city of Baltimore, for the pretended offence of marching, at the call of the Federal Government, peaceably, over soil admitteilly in the Union, and with the ultimate object of defending our common Capitol against an armed and rebellious invasion, together with the obstruction of our Pennsylvania troops when despatched on the same patriotic mission, impose new duties and responsibilities upon our State administration. At last advices the General Government had military possession of the route to Washington through Annapolis; but the transit of troops had been greatly endangered and delayed, and the safety of Washington itself imminently threatened. This cannot be submitted to. Whether Maryland may profess to be loyal to the Union or otherwise, there can be permitted no hostile soil, no obstructed thoroughfare, between the States that undoubtedly are loyal and their national seat of government. There is reason to hope that the route through Baltimore may be no longer closed against the peaceable passage of our people armed and in the service of the Federal Government. But we must be fully assured of this, and have the uninterrupted enjoyment of a passage to the Capitol by any and every route essential to the purposes of the Government. This must be attained, peaceably if possible, but by force of arms if not accorded.

The time is past for temporizing or forbearing with this rebellion; the most causeless in history. The North has not invaded, nor has she sought to invade a single guaranteed right of the South. On the contrary all political parties and all administrations have fully recognized the binding force of every provision of the great compact between the States, and regardless of our views of State policy, our people have respected them. To predicate a rebellion, therefore, upon any alleged wrong inflicted or sought to be inflicted upon the South is to offer falsehood as an apology for treason. So will the civilized world and history judge this mad effort to overthrow the most beneficent structure of human government ever devised by man.

The leaders of the rebellion in the Cotton States, which has resulted in the establishment of a provisional organization assuming to discharge all the functions of governmental power, have mistaken the forbearance of the General Government; they have accepted a fraternal indulgence as an evidence of weakness, and have insanely looked to a united South, and a divided North to give success to the wild ambition that has led to the seizure of our national arsenals and arms, the investment and bombardment of our forts, the plundering of our mints, has invited piracy upon our commerce, and now aims at the possession of the National Capitol. The insurrection must now be met by force of arms; and to re-establish the Government upon an enduring basis by asserting its entire supremacy, to re-possess the forts and other Government property so unlawfully seized and held; to ensure personal freedom and safety to the people and commerce of the Union in every section, the people of the loyal States demand, as with one voice, and will contend for, as with one heart; and a quarter of a million of Pennsylvania's sons will answer the call to arms, if need be, to wrest us from a reign of anarchy and plunder, and secure for themselves and their children, for ages to come, the perpetuity of this Government and its beneficent institutions.

Entertainig these views and anticipating that more troops would be required than the number originally called for, I continued to receive companies until we had raised twenty-three regiments in Pennsylvania, all of which have been mustered into the service of the United States. In this anticipation I was not mistaken. On Saturday last, an additional requisition was made upon me for twenty-five regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry; and there have been already more companies tendered than will make up the entire complement.

Before the regiments could be clothed, three of them were ordered by the National Government to proceed from this point to Philadelphia. I cannot too highly commend the patriotism and devotion of the men who, at a moment's warning, and without any preparation, obeyed the order. Three of the regiments, under similar circumstances, by direction of, and accompanied by officers of the United States army, were transported to Cockeysville, near Baltimore, at which point they remained for two days, and until by directions of the General Government they were ordered back and went into camp at York, where there are now five regiments. Three regiments mustered into service are now encamped at Chambersburg, under orders from the General Government; and five regiments are now in camp at this place, and seven have been organized and mustered into service at Philadelphia.

The regiments at this place are still supplied by the Commissary Department of the State. Their quarters are as comfortable as could be expected, their supply of provisions abundant, and, under the instruction of competent officers, they are rapidly improving in military knowledge and skill. I have made arrangements to clothe all our regiments with the utmost dispatch consistent with a proper economy, and am most happy to say that before the close of the present week all of our people now under arms will be abundantly supplied with good and appropriate uniforms, blankets and other clothing.

Four hundred and sixty of our volunteers, the first to reach Washington from any of the States, are now at that city; these are now provided for by the General Government; but I design to send them clothing at the earliest possible opportunity. I am glad to be able to state that these men, in their progress to the National Capital, received no bodily injury, although they were subjected to insult in the city of Baltimore, such as should not have been offered to any law-abiding citizen, much less to loyal men, who, at the call of the President, had promptly left their own State in the performance of the highest duty and in the service of their country.

A large body of unarmed men, who were not at the time organized as a portion of the militia of this Commonwealth, under the command of officers without commissions, attempted under the call of the National Government, as I understand, to reach Washington and were assaulted by armed men in the city of Baltimore, many of their number were seriously wounded, and four were killed. The larger part of this body returned directly to Philadelphia; but many of them were forcibly detained in Baltimore; some of them were thrust into prison, and others have not yet reached their homes.

I have the honor to say that the officers and men behaved with the utmost gallantry. This body is now organized into a regiment, and the officers are commissioned; they have been accepted into the service, and will go to Washington by any route indicated by the Federal Government.

I have established a camp at Pittsburg, at which the troops from Western Pennsylvania will be mustered into service, and organized and disciplined by skillful and experienced officers.

I communicate to you with great satisfaction, the fact that the banks of the Commonwealth have voluntarily tendered any amount of money that may be necessary for the common defence and general welfare of the State and the nation in this emergency; and the temporary loan of five hundered thousand dollars authorized by the Act of the General Assembly of the 17th April, 1861, was promptly taken at par. The money is not yet exhausted; as it has been impossible to have the accounts properly audited and settled with the accounting and paying officers of the government as required by law, an account of this expenditure cannot now be furnished. The Auditor General and State Treasurer have established a system of settlement and payment, of which I entirely approve, that provides amply for the protection of the State, and to which all parties having claims will be obliged to conform.

A much larger sum will be required than has been distinctively appropriated; but I could not receive nor make engagements for money without authority of law, and I have called you together, not only to provide for a complete re-organization of the militia of the State, but also, that you may give me authority to pledge the faith of the Commonwealth to borrow such sums of money as you may, in your discretion, deem necessary for these extraordinary requirements.

It is impossible to predict the lengths to which "the madness that rules the hour" in the rebellious States shall lead us, or when the calamities which threaten our hitherto happy country shall terminate. We know that many of our people have already left the State in the service of the General Government, and that many more must follow. We have a long line of border on States seriously disaffected, which should be protected. To furnish ready support to those who have gone out, and to protect our borders we should have a well regulated military force.

I, therefore, recommend the immediate organization, disciplining and arming of at least fifteen regiments of cavalry and infantry, exclusive of those called into the service of the United States; as we have already ample warning of the necessity of being prepared for any sudden exigency that may arise. I cannot too much impress this upon you.

I cannot refrain from alluding to the generous manner in which the people of all parts of the State have, from their private means, provided for the families of those of our citizens who are now under arms. In many parts of the Commonwealth, Grand Juries, and Courts and municipal corporations have recommended the appropriations of moneys from their public funds, for the same commendable purpose. I would recommend the passage of an Act legalizing and authorizing such appropriations and expenditures.

It may be expected that, in the present derangement of trade and commerce, and the withdrawal of so much industry from its ordinary and productive channels, the selling value of property generally will be depreciated, and a large portion of our citizens deprived of the ordinary means of meeting engagements. Although much forbearance may be expected from a generous and magnanimous people, yet I feel it my duty to recommend the passage of a judicious law to prevent the sacrifice of property by forced sales in the collection of debts.

You meet together at this special session, surrounded by circumstances involving the most solemn responsibilities; the recollections of the glories of the past, the reflections of the gloomy present, add the uncertainty of the future, all alike call upon you to discharge your duty in a spirit of patriotic courage, comprehensive wisdom and firm resolution. Never in the history of our peace-loving Commonwealth have the hearts of our people been so stirred in their depths as at the present moment. And, I feel, that I need hardly say to you, that in the performance of your duties on this occasion, and in providing the ways and means for the maintenance of our country's glory and our integrity as a nation, you should be inspired by feelings of self-sacrifice, kindred to those which animate the brave men who have devoted their lives to the perils of the battle-field, in defence of our nation's flag.

Gentlemen, I place the honor of the State in your hands. And I pray that the Almighty God, who protected our fathers in their efforts to establish this our great constitutional liberty—who has controlled the growth of civilization and christianity in our midst, may not now forsake us; that He may watch over your counsels, and may, in His providence, lead those who have left the path of duty, and are acting in open rebellion to the government, back again to perfect loyalty, and restore peace, harmony, and fraternity to our distracted country.

A. G. CURTIN.

The reading of the message being concluded, Mr. BALL moved that it be referred to a select committe of seven.

Mr. WILLIAMS moved to amend by adding the words, "with instructions to report by bill or otherwise."

Mr. BALL accepted the amendment as a modification; and the motion as modified was agreed to.

REVISION OF MILITARY LAWS.

Mr. WILSON moved that a select Committee of five be appointed to revise the military laws of this Commonwealth.

THE STAY LAW.

Mr. DUFFIELD (on leave given) read in place a bill entitled, "an Act relating to judgments and executions," and moved its reference to the Special Committee of seven, to whom were referred the several subjects embraced in the Governor's message.

The bill was so referred.

Ex-President Pierce on the Crisis.

CONCORD, N. H., April 21, 1861.

Ex-President Pierce made the following speech, from the balcony of the Eagle Hotel, to a mass meeting last night:

FELLOW CITIZENS AND NEIGHBORS: If I had been apprised of your meeting last night seasonible, I should have been present. But the notice did not reach me till this morning. I wish to say, in advance, that since my arrival here the resolutions which you have passed have been read to me, and have my cordial approval. You call for me, my friends, as lovers of our country and of the blessed Union which our forefathers transmitted to us on an occasion more grave, more momentous, and more deeply fraught with painful emotions than any under which I have ever addressed you. But I rejoice that that flag (pointing to the flag of the United States) floats there. (Cheers.) Love for the flag of our country is a sentiment to us all; at least to my heart it is no new emotion. My father followed it from the battle of Bunker Hill uninterruptedly till the enemy evacuated New York in 1783. My brothers were with the gallant men who upheld it in the war of 1812. Can I, can you fail to remember how proudly it floated at a more recent date, from Palo Alto to Buena Vista, on one line of operation, from the castle of San Juan D'Ullon to the city of Mexico on another. Never can we forget that the gallant men of the North and of the South moved together like a band of brothers, and mingled their blood on many a field in the common cause.

Can I, if I would, feel other than the proudest sadness when I see that those who so often stood shoulder to shoulder in the face of foreign foes, and now in imminent danger of standing face to face as the foes of each other. But they should have thought of this as well as me. At all events, there is no time now to consult our feelings. The question has resolved itself into one of patriotism and stern duty.

We cannot fail to see what the nature of the contest is to be, and, to some limited extent, the fearfulness of the progress and consequences. We must not, however, turn our faces from them, because the true way to meet danger is to see it clearly, and to encounter it on the advance. (Applause.) I, for one will never cease to hope, as long as the fratricidal strife is not more fully developed than at the present time, that some event, some power, may yet intervene to save us from the worst calamity that ever depended over a nation. The opinions of many of the vast crowd before me, with regard to the cause which has produced the present condition of public affairs, are known to me, and mine are well known to you. I do not believe aggression by arms is a suitable or possible remedy for the existing evils. Still neither of these matters ought to be considered now.

They may be well waved—nay, they must be—until we have seen each other through our present trials and future dangers. Should the hope which I have expressed not be realized, which may a beneficent Providence forbid, and a war of aggression is to be waged against the national capitol and the North then there is no way for us, as citizens of the thirteen States, but to stand together and uphold the flag to the last, with all the rights which pertain to it, and with the fidelity and endurance of brave men, I would counsel you to stand together with one mind and one heart—calm, faithful, and determined. But give no countenance to passion and violence, which are really unjust, and often in periods like these the harbingers of domestic strife. Be just to yourselves, just to others, true to your country, and may God, who has so signally blessed our fathers generally, interpose in this hour of clouds and darkness, and save both extremities of the country, and cause the old flag to be upheld by all hands and all hearts. Born in the State of New Hrmpshire, I intend here shall repose my bones. I would not live in a State the rights and honor of which I was not prepared to defend at all hazards and to the last extremity. [Applause.]

SADDENED MEMORY.—The perfumes of a thousand roses soon die, but the pain caused by one of their thorns remains long after. A saddened remembrance in the midst of mirth is like the thorn among the roses.

☞ "Angels in the grave will not question thee as to the amount of wealth thou hast left behind, but what good deeds thou hast done in the world, to entitle thee to a seat among the blessed."

☞ He conquers twice, who restrains himself in victory.